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TOHAK 27

FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP - III (TAKE ONE)
THE FOLLOWING DIGEST OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION AS OF NOON
EDT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, WAS PREPARED BY USIA.

SUMMARY

ARAB COMMENTATORS FOCUSED ON THE KISSINGER-SADAT TALKS AND REITERATED THE NEED FOR A FINAL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD ENCOMPASS THE PALESTINIANS. ONE JORDANIAN PAPER SAID THE PICTURE CONCERNING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE IS BEGINNING TO CRYSTALLIZE." THE EUROPEAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE "MODERATE SUCCESS" OF THE CAIRO TALKS AND THE POSSIBLE BYPASSING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. JAPANESE MEDIA MENTIONED CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS AND INDICATED CONCERN OVER ARAB UNITY AND ARAB OIL STRATEGY. END SUMMARY

AMMAN: INDEPENDENT AD-DUSTUR STATED TODAY THAT DURING THE KISSINGER-SADAT MEETING LAST NIGHT "THE PICTURE CONCERNING EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BEGAN TO CRYSTALLIZE. IT SAID: "BOTH PARTIES HAVE HINTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA WILL OCCUR ON A LEVEL BELOW THAT OF FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTING TO REACH AN ACCORD ON FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI. IN ADDITION THE EGYPTIANS WANT TO OBTAIN AN ISRAELI PLEDGE FOR MORE DISENGAGEMENT ON THE ISRAELI FRONTS WITH JORDAN AND SYRIA. SOME SOURCES STATED THAT EGYPT WILL BE SATISFIED IF ISRAEL ONLY OFFERS A PLEDGE TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT THE JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS, WITHOUT ANY STIPULATION THAT THE TALKS BEGIN IMMEDIATELY." THE PAPER, CITING ONLY "NEWS AGENCIES" AS A SOURCE, ALSO SAID THAT "THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE BEST WAY TO TACKLE THE PALESTINE ISSUE IS TO HOLD CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL UNDER DR. KISSINGER'S SUPERVISION."

DAMASCUS: AL-BAATH AND AL-THAWRA FRONT-PAGED SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MENA REPORTS ON MR. KISSINGER'S CAIRO VISIT. THEY CARRIED REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMI, AND HIS SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, BUT DID NOT GIVE COMMENTARY OR ANALYSIS.

BAGHDAD: INA RADIO CARRIED THE STATEMENTS OF A PLO SPOKESMAN WHO SAID THAT THE PLO "VIEWS WITH GREAT CAUTION MR. KISSINGER'S TRIP TO THE REGION." HE DESCRIBED THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AS A "LINK IN THE CHAIN OF U.S. POLICY AIMED AT SAFE-

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GUARDING AMERICAN AND ISRAELI INTERESTS IN THE AREA AT THE EXPENSE OF ARAB RIGHTS." U.S. POLICY "IS STILL HOSTILE TO THE ARABS AND THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS, AND STILL SUPPORTS THE ZIONIST PRESENCE FINANCIALLY AND MILITARILY, AND ZIONIST POLICIES BASED ON OCCUPATION, AGGRESSION AND EXPANSIONISM."

BEIRUT: INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, WROTE YESTERDAY "EVEN LEAVING ASIDE PESSIMISM OF THE TWO SIDES, THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING THAT THINGS WILL NOT BE EASY THIS TIME, PROBABLY BECAUSE APPROACHING DIFFICULT AND DELICATE SUBJECTS IS MAKING ALL PARTIES, EXCEPT THE AMERICANS APPREHENSIVE, INCAPACITATED, OR PASSIVE....THIS IS WHAT GIVES KISSINGER'S PRESENT TOUR IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE U.S. COURAGE IN EXERCISING ITS INFLUENCE TO ASSIST THE PARTIES CONCERNED--ESPECIALLY ISRAEL--IN MOVING TO THE STAGE OF DIFFICULT OPTIONS AND FATEFUL DECISIONS." LEFTIST PRO-FEDAYEEN AL-MUHARRIR CLAIMED YESTERDAY THAT "WASHINGTON NO LONGER FEELS A PRESSING NEED TO FOLLOW THE POLICY OF "SHUTTLE" VISITS TO THE AREA. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE OIL CRISIS, KISSINGER WOULD PROBABLY HAVE POSPONED HIS VISIT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. OIL, NOT THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, IS THE REAL MOTIVE FOR HIS VISIT. ANYWAY, THE VISIT WILL NOT LAST LONG."

TUNIS: PAPERS CONTINUED TO GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE OF THE KISSINGER MIDDLE EAST TRIP. BOTH SEMI-INDEPENDENT AS-SABAH AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LA PRESSE PLAYED THE THEME THAT "KISSINGER THE MAGICIAN" HAS LOST HIS MAGIC. LA PRESSE WROTE, "KISSINGER WILL GLEAN FEW THINGS FROM THIS VOYAGE, FOR THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN FACED DIRECTLY AND WITHOUT AMBIGUITY AND THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANCE OF DISSUADING THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES FROM RESORTING TO AN EMBARGO IN CASE THE CURRENT STEP TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS GETS BORGGED DOWN INDEFINITELY OR RESULTS IN A DEAD END."

CAIRO: MENA CITED SEMI-OFFICIAL AL-AHRAM AS SAYING IT HAD LEARNED THAT THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WAS RAISED DURING THE KISSINGER-SADAT TALKS. "IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS QUESTION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT A LATER STAGE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR A DRAFT JOINT AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO NUCLEAR COOPERATION, TO INCLUDE FURTHER GUARANTEES." MENA ALSO CITED TODAY'S EDITION OF AL-QUMHURIYA AS SAYING THAT MR. KISSINGER "KNOWS HOW STRONGLY WE STRESS THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT A PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OR AN INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUE. THEREFORE, HE MUST REVIEW HIS PROPOSAL...ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ANOTHER WITHDRAWAL ON THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS, AND HE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IF THIS HAPPENS, IT MUST INEVITABLY TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OVERALL FINAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM... AS PRESIDENT SADAT AFFIRMED PREVIOUSLY, THE QUESTION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IS THE REAL ESSENCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND THAT WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS, THE PRESENT EFFORTS CANNOT ATTAIN SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM." EDITORIAL IN AL-AHRAM "ADDRESSED TO KISSINGER" NOW BEING RECEIVED AND WILL BE SENT IN

THIRD TAKE THIS REPORT.

TEL AVIV: INDEPENDENT MAARIV PREDICTED THE POSTURE OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CHANGE "EVEN AFTER ELECTIONS..." THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CONFRONTED BY "THE SAME DILEMMA: WHAT PRICE SHOULD ISRAEL PAY FOR WHAT THE ARABS ARE NOT READY TO GIVE... THE QUESTION, THEREFORE, IS NOT WHAT KISSINGER WILL BRING FROM THE ARABS... BUT WHAT THE SECRETARY WILL TAKE BACK TO THEM FROM JERUSALEM..." INDEPENDENT HAARETS OF TEL AVIV DECLARED THAT "RABIN'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD DRAW KISSINGER'S ATTENTION TO THE MOOD IN ISRAEL WHICH OPPOSES UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS... ISRAEL SHOULD ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN AGREEMENTS... IN WHICH EACH PARTY SACRIFICES SOME OF THE ASSETS IT HOLDS..." SEMIOFFICIAL DAVAR COMMENTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD PROBABLY GO TO MOSCOW LATER SINCE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS DEPENDS ON "WHETHER OR NOT MOSCOW WILL CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL... IN FAVOR OF NORMALIZATION."

EUROPE

WEST GERMANY: IN DISCUSSING THE CAIRO TALKS, PAPERS USED SUCH COMMENTS AS "RAPID PROGRESS BEING MADE," "SATISFACTION OVER THE OUTCOME," AND "CONSTRUCTIVE." THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG SAID BOTH SIDES, FOR THE TIME BEING, WOULD REFRAIN FROM RAISING THE ISSUE OF ANOTHER GENEVA MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE AND EXPECTS MR. KISSINGER WILL FACE GREATER DIFFICULTIES IN DAMASCUS. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SAID: "KISSINGER'S VISIT WILL BE... MAINLY TO EASE LOCAL TENSIONS SO THAT THE SUPRA-REGIONAL TENSION CAN THEN BE LESSENER."

WEST BERLIN: SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT NOTED THAT THE TALKS HAVE MADE "FAST PROGRESS," AND WONDERED WHETHER MR. KISSINGER HAS SCORED HIS "FIRST SUCCESSES." BERLINER MORGANPOST SAID THE TALKS ARE MAKING HEADWAY. DER TAGESSPIEGEL GAVE TOP PLAY TO WHAT IT CALLED A "SURPRISING CHANGE" OF THE ITINERARY TO RETURN TO CAIRO AND MAKE SEVERAL TRIPS TO DAMASCUS.

GREAT BRITAIN: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SAID IT WAS "WIDELY SUGGESTED IN CAIRO THAT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA MIGHT BE BY-PASSED FOR A WHILE," AND SOME AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN CAIRO TO KEEP "THE THORNY PROBLEMS OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN THE BACKGROUND."

ITALY: LA STAMPA SAID THE "ATMOSPHERE SEEMS CHANGED. NO PESSIMISM BUT NEITHER EUPHORIA. WE MAY SPEAK OF MODERATE CONFIDENCE." IL MESSAGGERO, IL POPOLO AND OTHER PAPERS SAID MR. KISSINGER WAS AGAINST CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

FRANCE: FIGARO IS NOT SO CONFIDENT ON THE CAIRO TALKS, STATING: "IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONCRETE GESTURE FROM AMERICA, THE DISAPPOINTED AND ANXIOUS EGYPTIANS ARE LIKELY TO RESORT TO BLACKMAIL, FOR WHICH THEY HAVE A POWERFUL WEAPON: THE CANAL." LA CROIX FEELS MR. KISSINGER'S "GOOD OFFICES APPEAR SOMEWHAT BREATHLESS... THE EGYPTIANS FEEL PRESIDENT FORD IS REPENSING TO THE OIL WAR WITH A WHEAT WAR... HENCE EGYPT'S SEARCH FOR NEW DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FROM MOSCOW."

FAR EAST

JAPAN: INDEPENDENT LIBERAL ASAHI CITED A "U.S. DIPLOMATIC SOURCE" AS SAYING THAT "THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS A NEW WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM THE SINAI PENINSULA AND THE GOLAN

HEIGHTS THROUGH U.S. MEDIATION EFFORTS AMONG EGYPT, SYRIA AND ISRAEL ON A SEPARATE BASIS FROM THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS." THE PAPER JUDGED THAT "THIS INDICATES A CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT TOWARD BREAKING THE DEADLOCK ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION." THE MODERATE TOKYO SHIMBUN SAID: "THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE HOPE THAT A CONCRETE CONCLUSION WILL BE REACHED ON THIS TRIP. ONE OF THE REASONS IS THAT THE ARABS ARE NOT UNITED ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM... ANOTHER DIFFICULT PROBLEM IS CONNECTED WITH THE ARAB OIL STRATEGY."

MALAYSIA: THE CONSERVATIVE STRAITS TIMES COMMENTING THAT MR. KISSINGER IS "CONSCIOUS OF THE OIL SLICK WHICH MAKES SLIPPERY FOOTING... BUT TELLS HE HAS A GOOD CHANCE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS.... THE GENEVA FORMULA, WHENEVER THAT WAS HAS DISAPPEARED.... PROGRESS WILL BE SLOW." CONSERVATIVE BERITA HARIAN SAID: "HOW FAR MR. KISSINGER WILL BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED LANDS WILL DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ARAB WORLD WILL USE THEIR OIL AS A WEAPON."

IN AN EDITORIAL ADDRESSED TO MR. KISSINGER, CAIRO'S AL-AZHAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AHMED HAMA EL-DIN SAID MR. KISSINGER "WOULD BE HEARING HARD WORDS" FROM ARAB CAPITALS. EL-DIN CRITICIZED PRESIDENT FORD'S "THREATS AND 'WARNINGS'" TO USE FOOD WEAPON IN FACE OF OIL WEAPON, TALKING ABOUT "U.S. LONG HISTORY IN POLITICAL USE OF FOOD WEAP." HE CITED RECENT CUTBACK IN WHEAT SALES TO U.S.S.R. AS EXAMPLE. HE SPECULATES THAT MR. KISSINGER'S APPROACH (AT UNGA) AIMS AT INCITING ACTION AGAINST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ARABS, BY PETROLEUM CONSUMING NATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE POORER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHICH WERE MOST HARMED BY OIL PRICE HIKES. THIS APPROACH, HE NOTES, PAVES THE WAY FOR "ANY U.S. OR WESTERN RETALIATORY ACTION." FURTHER POINTS MADE IN THE EDITORIAL: (A) COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, U.S. GETS "LION'S SHARE" OF OIL AND SIMULTANEOUSLY ACCURES THE MOST BENEFIT FROM HIGH PRICES, (B) WESTERN PRESS SPECULATES OPENLY ON POSSIBILITY OF "MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE OIL DISPUTE," (C) THREATS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST "NON-OIL PRODUCING ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH, THOUGH POOR, AFFORD A MEASURE OF PROTECTION FOR SPARELY POPULATED (AND WEAKER) PRODUCING COUNTRIES."

ANOTHER AL-AZHAR SENIOR EDITOR, IHSAN ABDUL-GUDDOS, SAID ISRAEL WILL SIGN AGREEMENTS "ONLY UNDER FIRM U.S. PRESSURE." ISRAEL ATTEMPTS TO HINGE ALL WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON HIGH OIL PRICE QUESTION TO POINT OF "SPREADING RUMORS THAT U.S. AND EUROPE MAY INVADE ARAB COUNTRIES TO SEIZE OIL WELLS."

IN GENERAL, CAIRO PAPERS FRONT PAGE NEWS COVERAGE OF KISSINGER /SADAT AND GENERALLY CONVEY OPTIMISM IN DEVELOPING NEXT STEP OF MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. EDITORIALS, PAPERS CAUTION AGAINST USE OF FOOD AS WEAPON TO BALANCE OIL WEAPON, SPECULATE AS TO WHAT EFFECT FORD LEADERSHIP WILL HAVE ON U.S. APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND RE-EMPHASIZE HARD-LINE ARAB GOVERNMENTS WILL TAKE ON REGAINING OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND

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